

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended page(s), in which:

- Claims 1 and 11 are amended.

By these amendments, claims 1-8, 11, 12, and 17-21 remain pending. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

- Remarks -

35 USC §103(a)

In the Response to Arguments provided in the instant Office Action, the Examiner contends that claim 1 does not recite simultaneously printing to multiple layers. As it was in fact the intention of the Applicant to recite such a feature, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly incorporate this feature within its scope.

The Response to Arguments further asserts that Penn et al. (US 6,169,605) discloses “simultaneous printing to multiple layers”. The rejection, in this regards, interprets the conductive object material 25 as forming a first layer, and the insulative material 35 as forming a second layer. Applicant respectively submits that such an assertion and interpretation of Penn et al. is unsupported and untenable.

Penn et al. clearly describe each layer as comprising a mixture of conductive and insulative materials 25, 35. The term “layer”, as used by Penn et al., clearly refers to a physical surface/plane/sheet making up the object 55.

Applicant refers, for example, to the description of Penn et al. at col. 7, lines 22-29, where it is described that object 55 comprises a stack of layers of materials 25,35. Further, col. 16, lines 46-56, describes that printhead 20 dispenses conductive object material 25 at predetermined locations in each layer, and then, in the same single pass, printhead 670 dispenses insulative support material 35 as required to fill the remainder of the layer. Such descriptions explicitly and unambiguously define a layer of Penn et al. as referring to a particular physical surface/plane/sheet making up object 55 at a certain height, which surface/plane/sheet contains a mixture of conductive and insulative material 25, 35. More specifically, it is clear from the above descriptions of Penn et al. that a layer is not defined or bounded by the type of material the layer is composed of.

The Examiner’s interpretation that the conductive object material 25 forms a first layer, and the insulative material 35 forms a second layer is therefore repugnant to the teachings of Penn et al., and untenable.

Applicant maintains that Penn et al. does not teach or suggest printing a plurality of layers simultaneously, and hence that claims 1-8, 11, 12, and 17-21 are novel and inventive.

Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant looks forward to word of further official communication in due course.

Very respectfully,

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